

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for updating a subscriber's account credit in a telecommunications system where at least two different types of vouchers can be used for making deposits in the account;

5           the method comprising the steps of:

defining at least two different ways of updating the credit;

maintaining information indicating the type of a first voucher currently used;

receiving a deposit identifying a second voucher;

determining the type of the second voucher; and

10           selecting the way of updating the credit on the basis of the types of the first voucher and the second voucher.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

15           checking whether the first voucher and the second voucher are of the same type;

and

updating the credit by adding the value of the second voucher to the credit, if said vouchers are of the same type; or

updating the credit by setting the credit to be the value of the second voucher, if said vouchers are of a different type.

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3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

25           checking whether the first voucher and the second voucher are of the same type;

and

updating the credit by adding the value of the second voucher to the credit, if said vouchers are of the same type; or

25           determining a factor, multiplying the credit with the factor and adding the result of said multiplication to the value of the second voucher, and setting the credit to be the result of said addition, if said vouchers are of a different type.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said factor is determined on the basis of the types of the first and the second voucher.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
asking the subscriber for a permission to update the credit, if the vouchers are of a different type; and  
updating the credit only if the permission is received from the subscriber.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the types of the vouchers are determined on the basis of their identification numbers.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunications system is a mobile telecommunications system.

15 8. An arrangement for updating a subscriber's account credit in a telecommunications system where the subscriber can pre-pay for his/her calls by making deposits in his/her account using at least two different types of vouchers and where the system applies a first method to update the credit, the arrangement being arranged to detect a possible change of voucher type when the credit is updated; and,  
20 in response to said detection, to apply a second method to update the credit.

9. The arrangement of claim 8, wherein the arrangement is further arranged, in response to said detection, to ask the subscriber for a permission to update the credit and to update the credit only in response to the permission.

25 10. The arrangement of claim 8, wherein the arrangement is arranged to detect said change of voucher type by determining the types of a last used voucher and a new voucher and by comparing these types.

11. The arrangement of claim 9, wherein the arrangement comprises an Intelligent Peripheral of an Intelligent Network, said Intelligent Peripheral comprising an Interactive Voice Response service through which the credits are updated.

5        12. A network element in a telecommunications system where a subscriber of the system can pre-pay for his/her calls by making deposits in his/her account using at least two different types of vouchers, which element includes a database or can be arranged to have access to a database, where account credit is maintained, the network element comprising

10        a first mechanism to determine the type of the voucher last used by the subscriber,  
              a second mechanism to determine the type of the new voucher which the subscriber is going to use to update his/her credit, and  
              a third mechanism to select a method of updating the credit among at least two different updating methods on the basis of the types of said vouchers.

15        13. The network element of claim 12, wherein the third mechanism is further arranged to ask the subscriber for a permission to update the credit according to the voucher type concerned in response to said vouchers being of a different type, and to update the credit only in response to a permission received from the subscriber.

20        14. The network element of claim 12, wherein in response to the different voucher types, the third mechanism is further arranged to determine a factor, to multiply the subscriber's current credit with said factor, to add the result of said multiplication to the value of the second voucher, and to set the credit to be the result of said addition.

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